Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03930 111323Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 NEAE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 EUR-12 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /089 W

-----093314 111337Z/46

O 111240Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO USDEL SECRETARY JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4860
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLO, LE
SUBJECT: PLO ATTITUDES ON SOUTH AND OR SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST
TRIP.

REF: BEIRUT 3902

1. PLO IS CONCERNED THAT ISRAELIS ARE PLANNING MAJOR MILITARY MOVE IN SOUTH. ON AUGUST 10 "PALESTINIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN," AS REPORTED BY PLO NEWS AGENCY WAFA IN ENGLISH, ACCUSED ISRAELIS OF INTERVENING ALONG WIDE FRONT WITH ARMOR AND ARTILLERY AND WARNED THAT "BEGIN'S RECENT STATEMENTS REGARDING THE SOUTH, ACCOMPANIED BY OVERT ISRAELI MILITARY MOVES, CLEARLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AIM AT IMPOSING FAIT ACCOMPLI IN THE REGION, INVOLVING DE FACTOR ISRAELI CONTROL OF LARGE PART OF IT."

2. AT SAME TIME, DURING INSPECTION TOUR OF PALESTINIAN BASES IN SOUTH LEBANON, YASSER ARAFAT EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP WOULD PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS. HE MADE THINLY VEILVED THREAT TO STEP UP MILITARY ACTIVITIES IF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES WERE UNSUCCESSFUL, BUT DECLARED THAT ONE OBJECT OF ANY ARMED STRUGGLE WOULD BE TO CHANGE RESOLUTION 242. ACCORDING TO WAFA, ARAFAT TOLD FIGHTERS IN SOUTH:

- -- VANCE CAME TO THE REGION CARRYING BEGIN'S CONDITIONS AS A PROPOSAL TO THE ARAB NATION. BEGIN'S CONDITIONS ARE: NO TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE; NO TO THE PLO; NO TO A PALESTINIAN STATE."
- -- PALESTINIAN RESOLUTION MUST PUT "MORE BELIEF IN THE RIFLE" AND MUST "HOLD FAST TO IT," FOR IT WILL "FORCE ALL TO CHANGE RESOLUTION 242" IN FAVOR OF PALESTINIANS. "WITH OUR RIFLES, WE MADE (GENERAL ASSEMBLY) RESOLUTION 3236 AND IMPOSED OUR PRESENCE ON THE WHOLE WORLD."
- 3. COMMENT: ARAFAT'S COMMENTS ARE VERY MILITANT, BUT ARE WITHIN CONTEXT OF ATTEMPTING TO BOOST MORALE OF FIGHTERS, WHO MAY BE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT ISRAELI ATTACKS AND DISILLUSIONED BY CONTINUED FIGHTING IN SOUTH. DESPITE AGGRESSIVE ASSERTIONS, HOWEVER, ARAFAT DID NOT FAIL TO MENTION MODIFICATION OF RESOLUTION 242.

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4. COMPLETE TEXT OF ARAFAT SPEECH BY SEPTEL. PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Subject: PLO ATTITUDES ON SOUTH AND OR SECRETARY\'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP.

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PDEV, OVIP, XF, IS, LE, US, PLO, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (ARAFAT, YASSIR)
To: SECRETARY STATE

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